

### REMARKS

Claim 12 was allowed. Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been so rewritten.

Applicant hereby acknowledges the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance. Applicant respectfully notes that there may be additional reasons for allowance that have not been specifically cited, and which may apply to various of the allowed claims, in addition to or instead of the cited Reasons. Applicant respectfully suggests that notwithstanding the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, it is believed that each of the allowed claims is patentable in its own right and/or for other reasons raised during the prosecution and/or explained in the specification of this application.

To the extent that any statements regarding patentability of any claims allowed by the Examiner made by the Applicant or the Examiner in any document filed in this application are inconsistent with or not included in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, they are incorporated by reference herein.

### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,069,890 to White et al., in view of Voit et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,157,648. Claims 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al., in view of Voit et al., and further in view of Stiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,130,881. Claims 3, 6, 14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Voit et al., and further in view of Kugell et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,802,160.

Claims 7, 15, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Voit et al., and further in view of Coile et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,176,733. Claims 8, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Voit et al., and further in view of Stiller et al. Claims 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Voit et al., in view of Fujino et al., JP 05030319.

The Examiner suggests that Applicant's claimed second voice gateways are equivalent to gateways inherently within the Internet 106 of White et al., (Office Action, page 4, lines 14-15), but acknowledges that White et al. does not specifically disclose second voice gateways holding a route selection table for determining a destination gateway from a destination inquiring message and forwarding the message to the destination voice gateway, (Office Action, page 5, lines 5-11). The Examiner states however, that such second voice gateways are suggested by the routers shown in FIG. 3 of Voit et al. as part of autonomous networks 310, 312, 314, (Office Action, page 5, lines 12-15).

While the routers of Voit et al. are capable of routing messages, arguably including a destination inquiring message for a voice communication, there is no suggestion in either of Voit et al. or White et al. of a first voice gateway transmitting a steering number and transport address to a second voice gateway in accordance with independent claims 1, 10-12, 16-17, and 23-24. The Examiner suggests that White et al. discloses this feature at column 9, lines 38-43, (Office Action, page 6, lines 4-7). White et al. discloses transmitting an IP address for the destination voice gateway together with a telephone directory number. These are distinct from Applicant's claimed steering number, which indicates a particular second voice gateway storing route information for the destination voice gateway. In other words, neither White et al. nor Voit et al. disclose or suggest a first voice gateway identifying a single second voice gateway for retrieving

route information corresponding to a destination voice gateway, and sending a destination determination message to the singularly-determined second voice gateway in order to transmit an associated call request to the destination voice gateway.

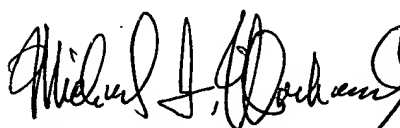
### CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments as set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1290 the sum of \$86.00 for one (1) independent claim in excess of the three (3) independent claims covered by the filing fee paid.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael I. Markowitz", is written over a horizontal line.

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